

REMARKS

In the present response, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 12-14 have been amended, and claim 18 has been added. In addition, claims 4, 7, 8, 11, and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter recited therein. Therefore, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12-14, and 16-18 are presently pending. Further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 16, and 17 were deemed allowed in their present form. Claims 4 and 12-13 were deemed allowable if placed into independent form. In response thereto, the subject matter of claim 4 has been inserted verbatim into claim 3. In addition, claims 12, 13, and 14 have been rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, Applicants believe all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Objections to the Claims

An objection was lodged against claim 2 for an informality. In response thereto, claim 2 has been amended to delete reference numeral 30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request removal of this objection.

Section 112 Rejection

Claims 6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response thereto, claims 6, 9, and 10 have been amended in a manner believed to address the concerns listed in the Office Action. Claim 8 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request removal of this rejection.

Section 102 Rejection

Claim 3 and 6-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 196 19 728 to Klaar (hereinafter "Klaar"). In light of amendments or cancellations herein, Applicants believe this rejection has been obviated in its entirety.

Section 103 Rejection


Claims 5 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klaar. In light of amendments or cancellations herein, Applicants believe this rejection has been obviated in its entirety.

CONCLUSION

The present response is believed to be a complete response to the issues raised in the Office Action mailed June 17, 2005. In view of the amendments herein, Applicants assert that pending claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12-14, and 16-18 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone conference.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the required fee or credit any overpayment, to Daffer McDaniel, LLP Deposit Account No. 50-3268/5858-02300.

Respectfully submitted,


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